

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-06 CG-00 FEA-01 DOTE-00
AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 SS-15
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R 312247Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3485
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USOECN PARIS
US DEPT OF COMMERCE
US DEPT OF TREASURY
US SECDEF

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, IMCO, SENV, NO
SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION

REF: (A) STATE 760283, (B) STATE 66771, (C) OSLO 1450, (D)
STATE 49149

1. SUMMARY: NORWAY'S MINISTER OF SHIPPING, WHO SHARES RESPONSIBILITY WITH MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT FOR MARINE POLLUTION, PLEASED WITH ADMINISTRATION'S MARINE POLLUTION INITIATIVES, BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH U.S. OIL CARGO PREFERENCE LEGISLATION AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST OIL FIELD SUPPLY VESSELS UNDER THE JONES ACT. EMBASSY ALSO APPROACHING ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY ON INITIATIVES. END SUMMARY.

2. I MET WITH NORWEGIAN MINISTER OF SHIPPING BAKKE ON MARCH 31 AND REVIEWED WITH HIM THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVES TO
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COMBAT VESSEL-SOURCE MARINE OIL POLLUTION. BAKKE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED FROM THE EMBASSY COPIES OF PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT EMBODYING HIS INITIATIVES AND OF THE WHITE HOUSE FACT SHEET CONTAINING BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON THE INITIATIVES. AS INSTRUCTED, I STRESSED GLOBAL ASPECT OF PROBLEM AND NEED FOR STRONG INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE EFFORT TO DEAL WITH OIL TANKER ACCIDENTS AND SPILLS; REVIEWED INITIATIVES, THEIR INTENT, AND SCENARIO

FOR THEM; AND EMPHASIZED SUPPORT FOR U.S. RATIFICATION OF 1973 CONVENTION AND FOR RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF A STRENGTHENED INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM TO PROTECT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT. I GAVE BAKKE A COPY OF TALKING POINTS IN STATE 66771 AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD SUPPORT THE U.S. INITIATIVES.

3. BAKKE SAID THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS WAS DIVIDED BETWEEN HIS MINISTRY AND THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT. BOTH MINISTRIES, HE SAID, WERE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART IN AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO TRY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON SAFER TANKER RULES. NORWAY HAS LONG SOUGHT INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON MEASURES TO COMBAT OIL POLLUTION FROM VESSELS AND HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED BY THE SLOWNESS OF MOVEMENT IN THIS FIELD. IT WAS NECESSARY, HE SAID, FOR ALL COUNTRIES TO AGREE ON SHIP CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS AS HIGHER STANDARDS WOULD RAISE THE TRANSPORTATION COSTS OF VESSELS CONFORMING TO THE NEW STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS. SPEAKING FOR HIS MINISTRY, HE COULD GO ALONG WITH ALL POINTS THE U.S. HAS PROPOSED, ESPECIALLY SINCE NORWAY HAD ALREADY SUPPORTED MANY OF THEM IN THE OECD AND IMCO. HE BELIEVED MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT WOULD ALSO WELCOME AND SUPPORT THEM.

4. REFERRING TO U.S. OIL CARGO PREFERENCE LEGISLATION IN CONGRESS, BAKKE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE GOVERNMENT'S STRONG OPPOSITION TO SUCH PREFERENCES AS ALREADY CONVEYED TO ME BY OFREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND (OSLO 1450) AND IN WASHINGTON BY NORWAY'S AMBASSADOR (STATE 49149). HE FELT THIS LEGIS-

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LATION WAS PARTICULARLY OBJECTIONABLE SINCE IT WAS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FREE TRADE/OPEN MARKET PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN BY THE UNITED STATES AND OTHERS AFTER WORLD WAR II. IN ADDITION, IT WOULD UNDERMINE THE SHIPPING OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE STRATEGIC AVAILABILITY OF HIS SHIPPING IN AN EMERGENCY.

5. BAKKE ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST NORWEGIAN SUPPLY VESSELS FOR OIL FIELDS UNDER THE JONES ACT. NORWAY HAD NO SIMILAR RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF AMERICAN VESSELS, AND A NUMBER WERE OPERATING ON THE NORWEGIAN SHELF. THE BRITISH, HE SAID, PLANNED TO RAISE U.S. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FOREIGN SUPPLY VESSELS WITH THE USG, AND NORWAY MIGHT ALSO DO SO. IT WAS A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE CONCERN AND DIFFICULTY IN NORWAY.

6. I TOLD BAKKE I WOULD REPORT HIS VIEWS TO WASHINGTON, EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION FOR HIS FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVES, AND SAID THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD ALSO RAISE INITIATIVES WITH THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT.

ANDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OSLO01553
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770114-0035
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977033/aaaaabxc.tel
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